STAFF SUMMARY

TO:

Board of Directors

FROM:

Frederick A. Laskey, Executive Director

DATE:

January 16, 2013

SUBJECT:

Authorization to Surplus Waban Hill Reservoir

COMMITTEE: Administration, Finance & Audit

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Michele S. Gillen, Deputy Director A&F

Preparer/Title

INFORMATION

Chief Operating Officer

Yachel (.) Jachel C. Madden

Director, Administration and Finance

RECOMMENDATION:

To declare as surplus to MWRA's water system construction, maintenance or operation needs and purposes an approximately 5.09 acre parcel known as the Waban Hill Reservoir located in the City of Newton and shown on the attached plan and to dispose of it by notifying the Commissioner of the Division of Capital Asset Management.

DISCUSSION:

Section 9(c) of MWRA's Enabling Act sets forth the procedure by which MWRA may relinquish its jurisdiction and control over Commonwealth-owned water and sewer real property that are under MWRA care, control and jurisdiction which are no longer needed for maintenance and operations of its water and sewer systems. MWRA's policy for Disposition of Real Property requires that, for property acquired through the enabling legislation, prior to declaring a site as surplus, the responsible division must first declare it surplus, confirm that it is surplus Authority-wide, obtain Board approval of this surplus designation, and finally, dispose of it by notifying the Commissioner of the Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM).

The City of Newton constructed the Waban Hill Reservoir in the 1880s for use in the Newton water system (which at that time was an independent water system). Upon completion of City of Newton water system improvements, the Waban Hill Reservoir was no longer a necessary part of Newton's water system and in 1890 Newton



conveyed that land and reservoir to the Metropolitan Water Board. The reservoir was used by the Metropolitan District Commission until 1974 when construction of the Dorchester Tunnel was completed and the reservoir was no longer necessary to the active water supply system. Since 1974, the reservoir has been maintained as an emergency back-up supply of water; however, it has only been utilized once (in 1980) during planned repairs to the Dorchester Tunnel. MWRA's improvements to the Spot Pond Supply Mains now allow MWRA to satisfy this emergency need from the Northern Low Service System making the Waban Hill Reservoir no longer necessary for emergency use.

Michael J. Hornbrook, Chief Operating Officer, has declared this approximately 5-acre lot as surplus to the construction, maintenance or operation needs of the Authority.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact from this transaction.

Waban Reservoir, Newton



